



Web Links V 1.1 module documentation

Function

The Web Links module is used to create a links section for your website. It is typically used to create a directory to other relevant websites, but you could use it to link to anything really (music, software, publications, whatever). Links can be organized into categories and sub-categories. Users can optionally be allowed to 'rate' existing links or to submit new ones.

Install/uninstall

Follow the standard installation process, no special measures are necessary. Extract the 'mylinks' folder into the xoops_root/modules directory. Install the module through the control panel (Admin -> System Module -> Modules). If you need instructions on installing modules refer to the XOOPS Operations Manual.

Operating instructions

The Web Links module is immediately functional after installation. However, it is a good idea to take a look at the module's configuration options and make sure that you are happy with the way it is set up. Don't forget to ensure that relevant user groups have access rights to the module and (if in use) its blocks. Information on setting group access rights is available in the XOOPS Operations Manual.

If you are planning to have a lot of links then it is probably useful to create some categories and/or subcategories to organise them. However, it is not necessary - you can post links without assigning a category.

The Web Links administration menu

Web Links

- Add/Edit Links
- Submitted Links
- Broken Links
- Modified Links
- Preferences

[Close]

Version: 1.1
Description: Creates a web links section where users can search/submit/rate various web sites.

Configuration options are as follows:

Preferences

Module config options	
Select the number of hits for links to be marked as popular	An icon  will be displayed next to links that reach a certain threshold of clicks. You can set the threshold at various levels ranging from 5 to 1000. Default is 100.
Select the maximum number of new links displayed on top page	The index page of the Web Links module displays the most recently added links. How many do you want to show ? There are several options ranging from 5 to 50. Default is 10.
Select the maximum number of links displayed in each page	If you have a lot of links in a category the page can get very long. You can choose to 'break up' a long list by limiting the number of links displayed on a page. Choose between 5-50 (default is 10). If there are more, a series of 'next page' links will be displayed at the bottom.
Allow anonymous users to post links ?	Yes or no (default). You can optionally allow users to submit links to your site (via the 'submit' sublink in the main menu). In a community site this can be a useful way to gather information.
Auto approve new links without admin intervention ?	Yes or no (default). Do you want user-submitted links to be automatically published ? If so, select 'yes', but note that this leaves your site open to spamming by robots, antisocial individuals and people trying to sell things. If you select 'no' then user submissions will be held in the 'submitted links' section of the administration menu pending approval by an administrator (see below). This gives you a chance to review whether the link is useful or appropriate, fix the spelling and formatting. It is useful to make the 'waiting contents' block (system module) visible to administrators on the user side of your website so that you can easily see when links are submitted.
Would you like to display the linked page within a frame ?	Yes or no (default). The default behaviour is to open the linked site in a new window. The advantage of opening the linked site in a frame is that you retain your logo / some navigation features back to your own site. The downside is that a lot of people really hate frames (particularly people that surf the web on mobile devices).
Select yes to display screenshot images for each link	Yes or no (default). Do you want to display screenshots of each linked site ? Note that this option won't do anything unless you actually prepare the screen grabs for each link and save them in the right folder on your website (see 'add a new link' below).

Maximum allowed width of each screenshot image	Enter a width in pixels, the default is 140. If the screenshot is wider than permitted it will be resized down when displayed, which is inefficient in terms of file size and page loading times. It is best to manually resize your screenshots to match the intended display size, prior to uploading them.
Comment rules	<p>Users can optionally be allowed to post comments on links. You can control the handling of comments here. Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disable comments - turn it off. • Comments are always approved (default) - user comments will automatically be published. Comments are often used as an ad-hoc discussion forum between users. Adding a layer of 'editorial approval' can slow or kill the discussion, so many sites choose to allow comments to be posted freely, in a similar manner to a discussion forum. This is the least 'spam secure' option. Note that you can prevent anonymous users from posting comments separately (see 'allow anonymous post in comments ?' below). • Comments by registered users are always approved - but comments posted by anonymous users (if allowed) will be held pending approval by an administrator. • All comments need to be approved by administrator - the most spam-secure option, but also the slowest - not a good choice if you are trying to promote discussion.
Allow anonymous post in comments ?	Yes or no (default). Standard practice on community sites is to require users to register before they are allowed to post comments for security reasons, as this gives you some options for dealing with antisocial individuals. However, you can allow unregistered users to post comments if you wish (select 'yes').
Enable notification	<p>The notification system allows registered members to 'subscribe' to different kinds of events on the website. An example of an event could be the addition of a new link in a particular category (kinds of events are detailed below). When an event occurs subscribers will automatically be notified via an email or personal message, depending on the preference set in their personal profile, which will contain a direct link to the relevant page. This allows members to track topics of interest without having to monitor the website constantly. It is also a very useful tool for administrators.</p> <p>Members can subscribe to events wherever the 'Notification Options' block is displayed on a page. There are several options for how this block is displayed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disable notification – turn it off. The Notification Options block will not be accessible within this module.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable only block-style – the Notification Options block (actually part of the System module) can be freely positioned on the page just like any other block (through Administration => System => Blocks). • Enable only ‘inline-style’ – the notification options block will be displayed in a fixed position at the bottom of the page, below the module contents. It cannot be moved. • Enable notification (both styles) – the Notification Options block will be available both at the bottom of the page and as an independently positioned block.
Enable specific events	<p>Administrators can control they type of notification events that members may subscribe to. Select the options that you would like to appear in the Notification Options block (CTRL + click to select multiple). The available notification options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global: New category - when any new category is created. • Global: Modify link requested - when a user submits an amendment to a link. This is of most use to administrators, so that amendments can be dealt with quickly. • Global: New link submitted - when a user submits a new link (if user submissions enabled). Of most use to administrators responsible for moderating user submissions. • Global: New link - when any new link is posted. • Category: New link submitted - when a user submits a new link in a particular category (if user submissions enabled). Of most use to administrators. • Category: New link - when a new link is posted in a particular category. • Category: Bookmark - this option does not generate notification messages. However, the category will be listed as a 'bookmark' in the member's notification options (accessed via the user menu), making it easy to return to the category. • Link: Comment added - when a comment is posted on a particular link. • Link: Comment submitted - when a user submits a comment on a particular link. As above, of most use to administrators when moderation is enabled. • Link: Bookmark - this just lists an individual link in a member's notification options, no notification messages will be sent.

Module Config Options	
Select the number of hits for links to be marked as popular	<input type="text" value="100"/>
Select the maximum number of new links displayed on top page	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Select the maximum number of links displayed in each page	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Allow anonymous users to post links?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Auto approve new links without admin intervention?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Would you like to display the linked page within a frame?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Select yes to display screenshot images for each link	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Maximum allowed width of each screenshot image	<input type="text" value="140"/>
Comment Rules	<input type="text" value="Comments are always approved"/>
Allow anonymous post in comments?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Enable Notification	<input type="text" value="Enable Notification (both styles)"/>
<p>This module allows users to be notified when certain events occur. Select if users should be presented with notification options in a Block (Block-style), within the module (Inline-style), or both. For block-style notification, the Notification Options block must be enabled for this module.</p>	
Enable Specific Events	<input type="text" value="Global : New Category"/> <input type="text" value="Global : Modify Link Requested"/> <input type="text" value="Global : Broken Link Submitted"/> <input type="text" value="Global : New Link Submitted"/> <input type="text" value="Global : New Link"/>
	<input type="button" value="Go!"/>

Add/Edit Links

This page of the administration interface is divided into five sections, each with its own submit button (variously labelled 'add' or 'modify'). Here is what you can do:

Add a main category

To create top-level categories to organise your links, simply enter the name of the category in the text field and simply press 'add'. You can, if you wish, display a category image or icon next to it, by entering the link to the image in the box below. You can link to any image, so if you are using consistent categories throughout your site you could link to an icon housed in another module, but if you wanted to make the Web Links module fully independent it is probably a good idea to place a copy of any icons used in the XOOPS_root/modules/mylinks/images folder, or upload them to the image manager (System module => Images).

The 'Image URL' box indicates that there is an 'option' to resize images down to 50 pixels in width, but actually there is actually no way to turn this off through the admin interface and it tends to make icons look fuzzy and ugly. If you use icons here it is best to design some that 'work' visually at 50 pixels in the first place, and resize them manually.

Add a MAIN Category

Title:

Image URL (OPTIONAL Image height will be resized to 50):

Add a sub-category

Just enter the name of the sub-category, then choose its parent category from the drop-down box and press 'add'. You can have multiple levels of subcategory.

Add a SUB-Category

Title: in One fish
Two fish
-- Redfish

Add a new link

Just fill in the title and URL, select a category (optional) and press 'add' to put a new link on your website. Bear in mind that the description is searchable by the XOOPS main search engine, so a good description will help your visitors find the link easily. You can, optionally, display a screenshot of the site using the drop down box to pick the appropriate image. To make a screenshot available for selection, save it with your favourite image editor into the directory:

http://xoops_root/xoops/modules/mylinks/images/shots/

Leave the screenshot dropdown box blank if you don't have one, or don't want to display one.

Add a New Link

Website Title:

Website URL:

Category: One fish

Description: 

B *I* U 

It's the website about nothing. On a good day, it might feature some intelligent discussion about mobile and wireless internet technology. On a bad day it features stuff about fish.

 [more...]

Screenshot Img:

Screenshot image must be a valid image file under <http://localhost/xoops/modules/mylinks/images/shots/> directory (ex. shot.gif). Leave it blank if no image file.

Modify category

Select a category to modify using the drop down box, and press 'modify'. You can rename the category and change its category icon here.

Modify Category

Category: 

Modify link

This is sort of redundant as it is actually a lot easier to edit links directly through the user side - you can locate the link you want to edit using the search box, then click on the red 'edit' icon  next to the 'Description' field name to open it for modification (so long as you are logged in as an administrator). However, you can enter the ID number of a link here to open it for editing if you want to. Problem is, you probably don't know the ID (for the record, you can get it by opening an individual link on the user side and looking at the end of the URL for the pattern '&lid=X', where X is the ID, or by looking directly in the database).

Just edit links through the user side ☺

The 'modify link' form is nearly identical to the 'add link' form shown above. Make your changes then select the 'modify' button. There is also a 'delete' button if you wish to remove the link entirely, and a 'cancel' button to abandon your edits. However, there is some additional information displayed about 'Link Votes'. This displays the total number of votes, and for registered users: Who voted, their IP number, the rating they gave, a timestamp and the overall average rating. For anonymous users only the IP number, rating and date are logged. Users can only vote for each link once (though this is tied to IP address for anonymous users).

Request Link Modification

Link ID: **2**

Website Title:

Website URL:

Category: 

Description:

Submitted links

This is an 'editorial area' where you view and manage links submitted by users. If you do not allow automatic publishing of submitted links (set in the preferences menu), they will be held here until you approve them. Make any desired changes then press the 'approve' button to make it publish it on your site – or you can delete it, if necessary.

Web Links Configuration

Links Waiting for Validation (1)

Submitter: crushdepth

Website Title: Crushdepth

Website URL: <http://www.crushdepth.net> [Visit]

Category: One fish

Description: Everyone cracks under pressure.

Screenshot Img: -----

Screenshot image must be a valid image file under <http://localhost/xoops/modules/mylinks/images/shots/> directory (ex. shot.gif). Leave it blank if no image file.

Broken links

Broken link reports submitted by users are displayed here. There are three options for dealing with the reports.

- Ignore - if the broken link report is false (it's a good idea to check because they often are), select 'ignore' to delete it.
- Edit - opens the link description so that you can amend it, eg. change the URL.
- Delete – be careful ! This permanently deletes the report **and** the link from your database.

Broken Link Reports (1)					
<small>Ignore (Ignores the report and only deletes the broken link report) Delete (Deletes the reported website data and broken link reports for the link.)</small>					
Link Name	Report Sender	Link Submitter	Ignore	Edit	Delete
Crushdepth	crushdepth (127.0.0.1)	crushdepth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Modified links

User-proposed amendments to links are managed here. Both the current and proposed descriptions are displayed. Your options are:

- Approve – accept the proposed change.
- Edit – revise the description yourself.
- Ignore – reject (delete) the proposed amendment.

Original	<p>Website Title: Crushdepth</p> <p>Website URL: http://www.crushdepth.net</p> <p>Category: /One fish</p> <p>Screenshot Img:</p> 	<p>Description:</p> <p>It's the website about nothing. On a good day, it might feature some intelligent discussion about mobile and wireless internet technology. On a bad day it features stuff about fish.</p>
Proposed	<p>Website Title: Crushdepth</p> <p>Website URL: http://www.crushdepth.net</p> <p>Category: /One fish</p> <p>Screenshot Img:</p> 	<p>Description:</p> <p>It's the website about nothing. On a good day, it might feature some intelligent discussion about mobile and wireless internet technology. On a bad day it features stuff about fish how much he needs a new job.</p>
Submitter: crushdepth	Owner: crushdepth	<input type="button" value="Approve"/> <input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Ignore"/>

The user side

Rate this site

This opens a form that allows the user to rate the site on a scale of 1-10. Each link displays the average user rating and number of votes.

Modify

This allows a user to request a modification to a link. It opens a form containing the link description, which the user can edit and submit. Proposed modifications are held until approved (or deleted) by an administrator (see ‘modified links’ above).

Report broken link

Opens a simple confirmation screen allowing users to report broken links – a very handy features that gets the community involved in keeping your site up to date. Reports are held pending the attention of an administrator (see ‘broken links’ above).

Tell a friend

Launches the user’s email client and opens a new message with the default text ‘Here is an interesting

website link I have found at XOOPS Site: <relevant URL>'.

Comments

Users can post comments on links, if comments are enabled for this module (see ‘preferences’ above).

The screenshot shows a website link entry page. At the top, it says 'Category One fish'. Below that is a thumbnail icon labeled 'Crushdepth'. To the right of the icon is the text 'Last Update: 2005/3/16 23:16'. Underneath the icon is a section titled 'Description:' with the text: 'It's the website about nothing. On a good day, it might feature some intelligent discussion about mobile and wireless internet technology. On a bad day it features stuff about fish.' To the right of the description is a small screenshot of a web browser displaying the Crushdepth website. Below the description is a row of statistics: 'Hits: 3 Rating: 9.50 (2 votes)'. At the bottom of the page are links: 'Rate this Site | Modify | Report Broken Link | Tell a Friend | Comments (0)'.

Blocks

The Web Links module has two blocks:

Recent links

Displays a list of the most recently added links.

Top links

Displays a list of the most frequently visited links (by number of hits).

By default both blocks display 10 links with a title length of 25 characters. These settings can be configured by clicking on the ‘edit’ link for each block in Administration => System module => Blocks.

Templates

You can customise the layout of the module by modifying the templates, which are available in Administration menu => System Module => Templates => Web Links. Note that you cannot modify the default templates – you must make a copy first (clone them). This ensures you can always fall back to the original templates. See the Operations Guide for more details about templates. The Web Links templates are:

mylinks_brokenlink.html

Displays the user-side form for reporting broken links.

mylinks_link.html

This is the template for displaying each individual link description. It is included within other templates that display the link descriptions, such as the index page etc.

mylinks_index.html

Displays the main (index) page for the Web Links module.

mylinks_modlink.html

Displays the user-side form to request amendment of a link description.

mylinks_ratelink.html

Displays the user-side form to ‘Rate this site’.

mylinks_singlelink.html

Displays a page with a single link description (for example, when a link is selected from the ‘recent links’ block).

mylinks_submit.html

Displays the user-side form to enter / submit new link descriptions.

mylinks_topten.html

Displays the ‘Top ten’ links in each category. It is called by the ‘Popular’ and ‘Top Rated’ sublinks in the main menu. The contents are ordered according to hits or user ratings, depending on which sublink was selected.

mylinks_viewcat.html

This template displays the contents of a category (links and subcategories).

mylinks_block_new.html

Displays the Recent Links block.

mylinks_block_top.html

Displays the ‘Top Links’ block.

Miscellaneous notes

When the Web Links module is being viewed there are two sublinks accessible in the main menu:

Top Rated sublink

This displays a list of the top 10 links in each category as ranked by users (see ‘Rate this site’ above). The average rating and number of hits and votes is also displayed.

Popular

As above, except that it displays the top 10 links according to the number of hits.

Other notes - managing notifications

Members can view and edit their notification subscriptions through the ‘Notifications’ link in the User Menu. This displays a list of a members currently active notifications and allows them to be deleted.

Module credits

The Web Links module was written by Kazumi Ono, aka ‘Onokazu’.